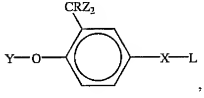
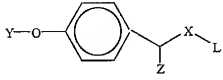
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) In an assay for detecting or quantitating an analyte, wherein in the operation of said assay, said analyte reacts to form a specific binding pair, which is localized on a solid phase support, said assay employing an analyte-dependent enzyme activation system in which the localization of the specific binding pair on the solid phase support localizes an enzyme on said solid phase support, and wherein said localized enzyme reacts with a substrate portion of a conjugate, said conjugate comprising a detectably labeled substrate for said enzyme, so as to form an activated conjugate, which activated conjugate covalently binds to a receptor site ~~on a surface having a receptor~~ for said activated conjugate on said solid phase support proximate where said specific binding pair is localized, said receptor not being reactive with the unactivated conjugate of the analyte-dependent enzyme activation system, wherein the detectably labeled portion of the bound conjugate either directly or indirectly generates a signal which is detected or quantitated, the improvement comprising: using as said conjugate, a compound having a structure selected from the group consisting of:




, and



wherein Y is a moiety capable of being cleaved by a hydrolytic enzyme; L is a detectable label; X is a group linking L to the phenyl group; Z is a halogen; and R is selected from hydrogen, halogen and alkyl groups.

2. (Original) The assay of claim 1, wherein Z is fluorine.

3. (Original) The assay of claim 2, wherein R is hydrogen.

4. (Original) The assay of claim 1, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of: phosphates, phosphate esters, glycosides and alkyl esters.

5. (Original) The assay of claim 4, wherein said glycosides are selected from the group consisting of galactose and glucose.

6. (Original) The assay of claim 1, wherein L is a first member of a specific binding pair.

7. (Original) The assay of claim 1, wherein L is biotin or dinitrophenyl.

8. (Original) The assay of claim 1, wherein L is a fluorescent species.

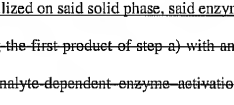
9. (Original) The assay of claim 8, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of: fluorescein, tetramethylrhodamine, sulforhodamine 101, a cyanine dye, Alexa dye or BODIPY dye.

10. (Currently amended) An assay for detecting or quantitating an analyte in a sample which comprises:

a) immobilizing the analyte on a solid phase to produce a first product comprising a specific binding pair, said specific binding pair having an enzyme associated therewith so that said enzyme is immobilized on said solid phase, said enzyme being reactable with a substrate;

~~b) reacting the first product of step a) with an analyte-dependent enzyme activation system wherein the analyte-dependent enzyme activation system is a member of a specific binding pair coupled to an enzyme, or is an enzyme, so as to produce a second product;~~

~~c)~~ b) providing a compound which is a substrate for said enzyme, said compound having a structure selected from the group consisting of:

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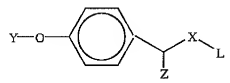



wherein Y is a group capable of being cleaved by said hydrolytic enzyme, L is a reporter and X is a group linking L to the 2-difluoromethylphenyl moiety;

~~d)~~ c) reacting the ~~second product~~ immobilized enzyme of step ~~b)~~ a) with said enzyme substrate material so as to form an activated conjugate ~~which is a first member of a specific binding pair~~ wherein the activated conjugate ~~deposits~~ binds covalently on the solid phase ~~by binding to the second member of the specific binding pair on the surface of the solid phase, said second member not being reactive with the analyte dependent enzyme activation system~~, wherein deposited detectable labels associated with said conjugate either directly or indirectly generate a signal which is detected or quantitated; and

~~e)~~ d) detecting or quantitating the analyte in the sample from the signal generated in step ~~d)~~ c).

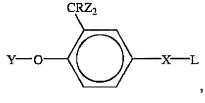
11. (Original) The assay of claim 10, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of: a phosphate, a phosphate ester, a glycoside, and an alkyl ester.

12. (Original) The assay of claim 10, wherein L is a fluorescent species.

13. (Original) The assay of claim 10, wherein L is biotin or dinitrophenyl.

14. (Original) A kit for carrying out a catalyzed reporter deposition employing an analyte-dependent enzyme activation system, said kit including:

a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:

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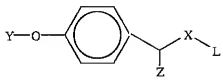
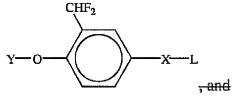


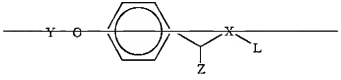
wherein Z is a halogen; R is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, an alkyl, and a halogen; Y is a group capable of being cleaved by a hydrolytic; L is a reporter; and X is a group linking L to the phenyl group; and

instructions for carrying out the assay.

15. (Currently amended) A compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of:



~~, and~~



wherein Y is a phosphorus-free group capable of being cleaved by a hydrolytic enzyme, L is a reporter and X is a group linking L to the 2-difluoromethylphenyl moiety.

16. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein Y is a glycoside.

17. (Original) The compound of claim 16, wherein said glycoside is selected from galactose and glucose.

18. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein Y is an ester.

19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein said ester is an alkyl ester.

20. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein Z is fluorine.